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SOURCE : Amerikai Magyar Hang.

BAR CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS FROM AVH;
BORDER GUARDS HAVE AVH CONTROL

In accordance with a resolution of the Ministry of Interior, civilians may not volunteer for duty with the State Security Authority (AVH). In the future, persons found eligible for AVH duty will be chosen from military recruits. Members of the state and border police may volunteer, after passing civilian and military examinations. For reasons of economy, warrant officers are not eligible to volunteer since the salary of AVH warrant officers is substantially higher than that of military or state police officers.

Curtailment of volunteering is explained by the alleged desire of the Hungarian authorities to make the AVH appear to the world as an organization consisting of draftees, and thus exempt from personal responsibility.

Since the reorganization of the AVH in August 1951, its influence has increased greatly. An AVH control group is attached to each border guard unit. In addition to inspecting the border service, these groups supervise the private life and political indoctrination of each member of the border guards. The control groups have also established a spy net within the service. Without the groups' approval, guard reports are not valid.

To prevent border guards from deserting, one member of the control group is attached to each patrol. Up to October 1951, approximately 1,000 guards deserted to Austria and Yugoslavia.

Since the reorganization, the strength of the border guard, disguised as a police force, has been increased to 22,000. Until 1948, its strength was 6,700, including administrative personnel.

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